

**SPEECH BY ACW SINGAPORE
MR RICHARD K T TAN
AT 19th ACWO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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President Dr June Goh and Members of ACWO
Executive Director ACWO Dr Husnah
President Ms Junie Foo and Members of SCWO

Thank you for once again inviting me to address you at your very important General Assembly held once every two years.

I am here again in my capacity as ACW Singapore Focal Point to acknowledge and to lend support to your wonderful work on behalf of the ASEAN Committee on Women.

The last time I spoke was in fact the first time I spoke and if what I was told is correct, when I spoke at your GA in Nay Pyi Taw in Nov 2018, I was probably the first govt official to have ever addressed ACWO GA in many years.

It was a great honour for me.

I was impressed by the comraderie among all of you. I was impressed by the extensive experience and knowledge that all of you collectively possessed. And I was impressed by the passion and above all the energy when the dancing started.

I am sure all my colleagues in ACW from the 9 ASEAN Member States will love to attend your GA if they knew how wonderful ACWO leaders and members are and what a good time I have had with all of you in Nap Pyi Taw.

Today, I am even more impressed by what you have achieved in the last two years. ACWO has grown more significant as an organisation. Your Vision Statement 2025 is a game changer for ACWO. And it is not because I promised and I delivered ASEAN Leaders' support for your Vision that made the difference. It is because ASEAN recognises ACWO as an important, and if I may add, powerful network of national women organisations.

As an ASEAN accredited entity, your network can shape and influence the public, private and people sectors in all ASEAN Member States to serve the cause of women. And there is much that ACWO can do. Especially now that you have listed three goals in your Vision to be fulfilled by 2025.

As I have promised in my speech at your Masterclass recently, ACWO will not be alone in its journey to realise its Vision.

- To advance ASEAN Smart Cities to serve the needs of women in the region, ACWO could work with the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN). Provide your requirements on the collaborative platform where cities from the ten ASEAN

Member States work towards the common goal of smart and sustainable urban development.

- To enhance the quality of women's lives in ageing, ACWO could work with the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).
- To focus on Women and Entrepreneurship, ACWO could work with ACW, SOMSWD, ACWC, and AICHR.

Beyond ASEAN, ACWO should also consider working with relevant UN Bodies and ASEAN Dialogue Partners such as Australia, Canada, China, EU, Japan, NZ, Korea and the US who have deep interests in women development issues.

If I may be allowed to make two more suggestions:

- It would be good if ACWO could work on a Regional Action Plan or Roadmap for each of these three goals to share with the relevant ASEAN and UN Bodies and ASEAN Dialogue Partners to seek their partnership.
- It would also be good if ACWO could work on three Declarations of its plans and partnerships for ASEAN Leaders notation or endorsement at the Summits in Brunei.

These Regional Action Plans or Roadmaps developed in partnership with various ASEAN and UN Bodies and ASEAN Dialogue Partner will serve ACWO's agenda as described in your Vision Statement and ACWO's relevance and profile will be elevated in the region and beyond.

I wish ACWO all the best in its journey ahead in realising the its Vision 2025 under the Presidency of Brunei.

Thank you.

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